

Minutes

Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

2-3 pm

Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room

5500 N. DuPont Highway

Smyrna DE 19977

Attendees: Jen Hill, Michael Beals, Kenny Foster, Raina Harper Allen, John Moore, Flora McConkie.

Guest Presenter: Maureen Whelan, Adult and Prison Education Resources, Delaware Department of Education.

Meeting called to order by Michael at approx. 2:20 pm.

Minutes of April meeting approved.

Presentation by Maureen Whelan, Adult and Prison Education Resources, Delaware Department of Education. Maureen coordinates the education aspect of the state's new re-entry program, I-ADAPT (Individual Assessment, Discharge and Planning Team). Their programs are not in competition with the school system, but second chances for adults and the incarcerated. Participants must be age 16 and up, formerly out of the K-12 system. Placement is based on current functioning levels, not on last grade completed.

About 75,000 Delawareans (age 25+) are without secondary credentials or a high school diploma. Lack of education plays a significant role in incarceration issues. For some in prison, educational programs are mandatory; for others, voluntary. The mission of Prison Adult Education is "to offer a quality adult education program that will provide an educational foundation to enable offenders to be productive workers, family members, and citizens while incarcerated and upon release from prison." Their services include: a twelve-step type program; functional skills program (stress reduction, personal finance management, etc.); special education; post-secondary education; English as Second Language; secondary credentials; high school programs; and vocational training (HVAC, plumbing, network wiring, auto tech, masonry, culinary arts, computer software).

The GED is now linked to Common Core, with fewer multiple choice questions, and more writing and reading. Also, more tech skills are needed to pass.

Review of today's "Lunch and Learn," with Delaware Attorney General Matt Denn. About 20 attendees were not Council members. Council members attending included Michael, Flora, Kenny. Lively discussion and questions from attendees, not all related to topics at hand (incarceration, re-entry, recidivism). Attendees were appreciative of opportunity to network

and collaborate. Two media representatives in attendance, Craig Anderson of Delaware State News and WDEL's Tom Lehman. Denn's presentation was Informative, with proposals for legislation and comments on budget needs. The response of attendees demonstrated desire of faith leaders to have face-to-face conversations with state leaders.

For future events: Consider requesting, as Q&A begins, that questions be relevant to topic of Lunch and Learn; limiting questions to one per attendee; no statements, just questions. Allow time for each attendee to introduce themselves.

Report on recent VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and Citizen Corps Meeting at Delaware Emergency Management Agency. Flora presented at their April meeting. Areas of possible partnership include: Council representative regularly attending their meetings; assistance with developing a faith-based committee for VOAD; encouraging faith communities to partner with VOAD; developing a database of faith communities to be used for educating on emergency preparedness and to analyze potential resources for response efforts; supporting their "Praise for Preparedness" initiative – an effort to reach out to faith communities. (Council suggests a different name for initiative; the term "praise" may not be inclusive.)

New Council Members. Flora to follow-up with Pastor Rich Walton (Methodist).

I-ADAPT Follow-Up. Concern expressed regarding support for codification. Support should be as individual Council members, not as Council. Doug and Flora to meet with Jay Lynch to discuss further.

Next meeting. Tuesday, June 2, 2015. [Subsequently cancelled.]

Meeting adjourned at approx. 3:40 pm.

Submitted by Flora McConkie, DCFBP Secretary, September 7, 2015.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, June 2, 2015 [Subsequently cancelled.]

Tour of Sussex Community Correctional Center in Georgetown and Council meeting, 1-3 pm.

Tuesday, July 7, 2015 [Subsequently cancelled.]

Council meeting, Rehoboth Beach (All Saints' Episcopal Church), 1-3 pm.

No meeting in August.

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Council meeting, Wilmington (Congregation Beth Shalom), 1-3 pm.

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

“Lunch and Learn” on Emergency Preparedness/Response, followed by Council meeting, Delaware Emergency Management Agency in Smyrna, 12-2 pm.

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

“Lunch and Learn,” followed by Council meeting, topic and location TBA, 12-2 pm.

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 [Cancelled.]

Council meeting, location TBA, 1-3 pm.